

Transcript of the President's News Conference on Foreign and Domestic Matters

NewsConference in Brief

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—Following are the highlights of President Kennedy's news conference today:

What's He cleared the way for sale of \$250 million in surplus American wheat or wheat flour to Russia through private dealers. He said the Government would not prohibit such sales if terms either of cash or credit could be worked out. He said the sale would be payable in dollars or gold. (Opening statement, Questions 1, 10 and 21, this page.)

Vietnam—The President said it was "wholly untrue" that the Central Intelligence Agency had pursued policies in South Vietnam that were in conflict with basic United States policies. He said that top-level policies on Vietnam were now fully agreed upon by all departments concerned. (Questions 2, 7, 10, 20.)

Soviet Relations—He said there had been "no agreement" to ban nuclear weapons from outer space but that the views of both the United States and the Soviet Union coincided. He indicated his support for a United Nations resolution banning such weapons by all nations. He indicated he expected no major breakthrough in his meeting tomorrow with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. (Questions 3, 4, 5.)

Latin America—The President said there had been no reversal of policy in opposition to military takeovers. He said the Administration would apply pressure short of military action to end the damage and prevent recurrence. (Questions 8, 9, 10.)

Politics—He forecast a close fight for the Democratic party next year and indicated strong belief that Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona would be Republican nominee. (Questions 11, 12, 13, 22.)

Foreign Affairs—He said that the policy we are going to carry out is a whole.

21 Q. Mr. President, if I understand you correctly, you said the Russian people will be coming to the aid of the American people.

A. That's correct.

22 Q. Mr. President, as we have seen, there is a great deal of concern about the situation in Cuba.

A. I think that's a fair statement. I think that the Cuban people are suffering from the effects of the Cuban Revolution.

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President Given Statuette for His Interest in Health

Following is the transcript of President Kennedy's news conference in Washington today, as recorded by the New York Times.

I have a statement to make. The Soviet Union and various Eastern European countries have expressed a willingness to buy from our private grain dealers at the regular world price and surplus grain dealers at the regular world price. They are willing to purchase surplus grain and other agricultural commodities.

After consultation with the National Security Council and the State Department, I have decided that such sales by private dealers for American dollars or gold, either cash or delivery or normal commercial terms, should not be prohibited by the Government.

The Commodity Credit Corporation in the Department of Agriculture will sell to our private grain traders the amount necessary to replace the grain used to fulfill requirements, and the Department of Commerce will grant export licenses for that grain with the commitment that these commodities will be delivered to and used in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe only.

As added feature is the provision that the wheat we sell to the Soviet Union will be carried in available American ships, supplemented by ships of other countries, as required. Arrangements for this sale will be made by the Department of Commerce to prevent any single American dealer from receiving an excessive share of these sales.

No action by the Congress is required, but a special report on the matter will be sent to both houses tomorrow.

Basically, the Soviet Union will be treated like any other cash customer in the grain market who is willing and able to strike a bargain with private American merchants.

While this action, like all wheat sold abroad, will be sold at the world price, which is the only way it can be sold, there is a significant difference in the way the wheat is sold. It is sold to the Soviet Union through private American dealers, while it is sold to other countries through the Government.

This transaction has obvious benefits for the United States. The sale of 4 million metric tons of wheat, for example, for an estimated \$250 million, and additional \$50 million for transportation and shipping, will benefit our grain producers and exporters by that amount and substantially strengthen the economic outlook for the United States.

2 Q. Mr. President, could you discuss some of the C.I.A. activities in Vietnam, particularly the situation in the North?

A. I think it is in our interest, particularly in view of the fact that the sales that are being made by the North Vietnamese are being made by the North Vietnamese.

3 Q. Mr. President, you said that the Cuban people are suffering from the effects of the Cuban Revolution.

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 9 (AP)—President Kennedy was presented with a bronze statuette for his health today.

The statuette, which was presented to him by the National Education Association, was a gift from the association's health committee.

Today's offering, a discussion of the health of the President, was the first of a series of discussions on the health of the President.

1 Q. Mr. President, do you have any health problems?

A. Well, I suppose there will be some who will disagree with this decision. I think it is a good idea to have a discussion of the health of the President.

2 Q. Mr. President, could you discuss some of the C.I.A. activities in Vietnam, particularly the situation in the North?

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